

REMARKS

The office action of April 7, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 15-16, 19-28, 30-31 remain in this application. Claims 15 and 28 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The office action indicated that claims 18 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 15 to include all of the limitations of claims 17 and 18. Thus, claim 15 is allowable. Claim 28 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 29. Thus, claim 28 is allowable.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2 as being indefinite. The office action alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the document" as recited in step (a) of claim 1. Applicants have canceled claims 1-14 rendering the rejection moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-17, 19, 21, 23, 25-28, 30, 32, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chen et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 6,625,624 (*Chen*). Applicants have canceled claims 1-8, 10, and 12-14, 17, 32 and 34, thereby rendering those rejections moot. Applicants have amended claims 15 and 28 into allowable form as discussed above. As a result, claims 15 and 28 are allowable over *Chen*.

Of the remaining claims rejected over *Chen*, 16, 19, 21, 23, 25-27 depend from claim 15. Thus, these claims are allowable as being based on an allowable base claim. Claim 30 depends from allowable claim 28 and is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

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Amendment dated May 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004

Claims 9, 11, 22 and 24 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Chen* in view of *Humpleman et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 6,288,716 (*Humpleman*). Applicants have canceled claims 9 and 11, thereby rendering these rejections moot. Claims 22 and 24 depend from claim 15, and are allowable as being dependent from an allowable base claim.

Claims 20, 31, and 33 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Chen* in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (APA). Applicants have canceled claim 33, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Claim 20 depends from allowable base claim 15 and is allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Claim 31 depends from allowable base claim 28 and is allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

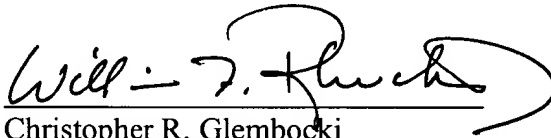
CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: May 13, 2004

By: 
for Christopher R. Glembocki
Registration No. 38,800

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001